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Marysville state championship volleyball team honored at state Capitol

LANSING – The Marysville High School volleyball team was recognized at the state Capitol today for being the 2006 Class B State Champions.

The team was honored with a special tribute from Sen. Jud Gilbert during a presentation in the Senate chamber.

“It is a great pleasure to extend congratulations to the Marysville High School Volleyball Team on its outstanding 2005 -2006 season,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “The Vikings achieved great success and continued an exemplary tradition that has made the Marysville High School Volleyball program one of the finest in Michigan, and the nation, in recent years.”

Under the guidance of Coach John Knuth, the Vikings compiled a remarkable 58-1 record and the program reached its 1,000th victory. The team continued a historic run of 18 consecutive district championships, 17 consecutive regional championships, 18 consecutive elite eight appearances and reached the level of state semi-finalist 14 out of the last 15 years.

Marysville also captured a state record ninth Class B State Championship in the past 10 years, accumulating a 98.5 winning percentage during that time.

Academically, the team continued a championship run as well. This year’s student-athletes were awarded the National Academic Award, which the Vikings have earned 13 years in a row. Additionally, they qualified as State of Michigan Academic Award winners - marking the 12th time in the last 13 years the Vikings have earned such a distinguished honor.

“We are very appreciative to Senator Gilbert for allowing us to have this honor bestowed on us,” said Knuth. “It is a thrill of a lifetime to be honored on the Senate floor and I know that the players will always have this memory. This was a tremendous team from day one; they had great passion and enthusiasm for the game. The team was such a joy to be around and I know the good Lord blessed me with the opportunity to coach such wonderful young ladies.”

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Photos of Sen. Gilbert and the Marysville volleyball team are available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Gilbert/Gilbert.htm>

Audio of Sen. Gilbert is available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/gilbert/index.htm>